

Moran Announces Funding for Salina Area Military Projects

SALINA - Congressman Jerry Moran announced House passage of funding he secured for military projects in the Salina area as part of the Defense and Military Construction spending bills for Fiscal Year 2009. This funding is expected to be signed into law by the end of September. Projects Moran helped secure include: Smoky Hill Range Access Road Improvements; the Unmanned Aerial Systems Mission Planning and Operation Center at Kansas State University at Salina; the Smoky Hill Range Support Facility; and Smoky Hill Range Equipment.

City, state and federal officials have been working to develop the Great Plains Joint Regional Training center concept in the Salina region, which includes the Kansas National Guard's Smoky Hill Range complex, the Salina Municipal Airport, and Salina's Kansas Regional Training Center. The goal is to provide improved military and civilian training opportunities for servicemen and women as well as first responders.

"I am pleased to join the Kansas National Guard in enhancing the Great Plains Joint Regional Training Center at Salina as we work to develop it into one of the top joint training areas in the country. This is a great opportunity to improve our national and homeland defense while also benefiting the Salina community," Moran said. "Funding for each of these projects is an important step as local, state and federal officials work together to improve the facilities and training available at Salina."

Resources for Saline County Road Improvements will better allow the transportation of military and civilian personnel and equipment to the Smoky Hill Range complex.

The Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) Mission Planning and Operation Center established at Kansas State University at Salina, will work with the Great Plains Joint Regional Training Center to train Guard personnel in mission planning and aircraft operation using the CQ-10 Snowgoose UAS platform owned by the Guard for homeland security and disaster missions.

The Support Facility at Smoky Hill Range will support the increasing Ground Forward Air Control mission with a modern, replacement facility. This space will house the air control office, the range control office, the time critical targeting system, the secure voice operations center and the digital voice recording for air crew debrief purposes.

Equipment at Smoky Hill Range includes the following new training capabilities and enhancements: a universal UAS control system, a UAS launch strip, and a range water tower.

###